

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055929

LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. GUATEMALA REJECTS US MILITARY AID

ON THE EVE OF FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA'S VISIT TO THE US,
THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA HAS PRESENTED A NOTE TO OUR
EMBASSY WHICH DECLINES "IN ADVANCE" AID OR MILITARY SALES
CONDITIONED ON FOREIGN JUDGMENTS ON INTERNAL MATTERS.
THE NOTE STATES IN PART:

"THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA VIEWS WITH SERIOUS PRE-
OCCUPATION AND DISQUIET THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE SHOULD
BE PUT INTO PRACTICE THE DOCTRINE THAT ONE GOVERNMENT, IN
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UNILATERAL FASHION, SHOULD ARROGATE TO ITSELF THE POWER
TO JUDGE ANOTHER GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH IT MAINTAINS
RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY, AND
ON THE BASIS OF THIS UNILATERAL JUDGMENT TAKES MEASURES
WHICH IN SOME WAY COULD AFFECT THE SECURITY OR ECONOMIC
INTERESTS OF THE OTHER".

EMBASSY COMMENT: DESPITE THE DIMINISHED ATTRACTIVENESS OF OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO GUATEMALA IN RECENT

YEARS, THIS DECISION REPRESENTS A CONSIDERABLE SACRIFICE IN VIEW OF THE PLANNED ACQUISITION OF US HELICOPTERS AND OTHER AIRCRAFT, AND SPARE PARTS FOR EQUIPMENT PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) GUATEMALA 1584. 3/11.

2. BRAZIL THREATENS TO GO IT ALONE

EMBASSY BRASILIA CONCLUDES THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL'S RECENT NUCLEAR STATEMENT HAS ONE PRINCIPAL MESSAGE:

--IF INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS FAIL TO TAKE PLACE, BRAZIL COULD GO IT ALONE WITH AN UNSAFEGUARDED NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED THIS WARNING BECAUSE IT JUDGES THAT IT WILL LEAD THE US TO DOUBT WHETHER ITS ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS THE FRG/BRAZIL AGREEMENT WILL BE BENEFICIAL IN THE LONG RUN.

SINCE THE STATEMENT MENTIONED NEITHER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING FACILITIES NOR THE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES BRAZIL MAY POSSIBLY RETAIN SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THESE TWO AREAS. IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW, THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT NOW BELIEVES THE BALL IS IN THE US/FRG COURT. THOUGH THE BRAZILIANS MAY BE UNEASY ABOUT WHAT THE FRG WILL DO, THEY CONFIDENTIAL

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APPARENTLY REMAIN CONFIDENT THAT THE TRANSFERS WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE PLACE. (CONFIDENTIAL/LIMDIS) BRASILIA 1953, 3/11.

3. INDIAN ELECTIONS: DOWN TO THE WIRE

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES BY THE CONGRESS AND JANATA (OPPOSITION) PARTIES ARE REACHING A PEAK IN PREPARATION FOR THE MARCH 16 POLLING. AFTER A SLOW START, CONGRESS IS SHOWING SIGNS OF COUNTERING THE OPPOSITION SURGE; MRS. GANDHI'S WHIRLWIND TOURS, ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH, HAVE GIVEN HER PARTY BADLY NEEDED MOMENTUM. WHILE EMBASSY NEW DELHI STILL BELIEVES THE CONTEST IS TOO CLOSE TO CALL, MOST OBSERVERS PREDICT A CONGRESS VICTORY WITH A MARGIN FAR TOO SLENDER FOR MRS. GANDHI'S COMFORT.

EMBASSY COMMENT:

--ALTHOUGH VOTERS NOW COMPLAIN LOUDLY ABOUT THE

GOVERNMENT, MANY MAY FEEL THEY MUST CHOOSE GANDHI
FOR NATIONAL STABILITY.

--THE CAMPAIGN'S LAST TWO DAYS, AND A POSSIBLE LAST-
MINUTE INFUSION OF CONGRESS FUNDS, WILL PROVE
CRUCIAL.

--FOREIGN-POLICY ISSUES ARE PLAYING A NEGLIGIBLE
ROLE.

--THE CAMPAIGN IS FAR LESS VIOLENT THAN THOSE IN THE
PAST. (CONFIDENTIAL) NEW DELHI 3589, 3/11.

4. AMBASSADOR YOUNG: SUDAN YES, ETHIOPIA NO

AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG ANALYZES PROBLEMS IN THE HORN OF
AFRICA AND FINDS A REAL DANGER OF AN EXPLOSION THERE IN
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THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE. HE FORESEES:

--FURTHER DISINTEGRATION IN ETHIOPIA;

--A CONCERTED EFFORT BY MOGADISCIO TO RECLAIM
"SOMALIA IRREDENTA;"

--SERIOUS INSTABILITY IN KENYA; AND

--ESCALATION OF TENSIONS AMONG SUDAN, SOMALIA, LIBYA
AND ETHIOPIA.

THE AMBASSADOR FINDS OUR LIMITED SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA
USELESS AND POSSIBLY DANGEROUS, GIVEN THE REPRESSIVE AND
HOSTILE REGIME IN ADDIS ABABA, THE KAGNEW PHASE-OUT AND
THE ETHIOPIAN DENIAL OF STRATEGIC ACCESS. HE RECOMMENDS
THAT WE REDUCE OUR ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA TO THE ABSOLUTE
MINIMUM AND IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE SUDAN, ENCOURAGING
THE SUDANESE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO
REGIONAL PROBLEMS. HE NOTES THAT THE UPCOMING US VISIT
OF SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTER MANSOUR KHALID PROVIDES US
WITH AN IDEAL OCCASION TO EXPLORE SUCH AN INITIATIVE.
(CONFIDENTIAL) USUN, NY 726, 3/11 (LIMDIS).
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